



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

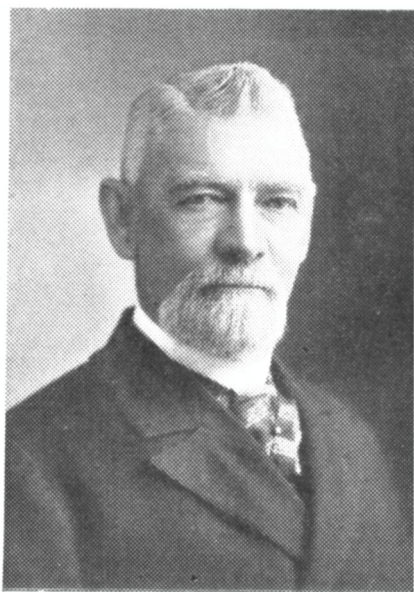
This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

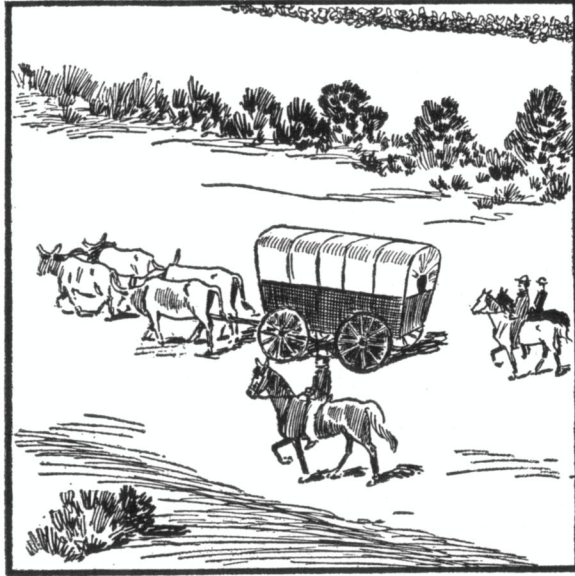
We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



WM. H. WORKMAN



PIONEERS CROSSING THE PLAINS

A BANQUET GIVEN TO THE PIONEERS BY WM. H.
WORKMAN.

in Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Arrival
in Los Angeles.

Turn Verein Hall, January 21, 1905.

(Compiled from the L. A. Herald and other papers.)

Ex-Mayor and present City Treasurer W. H. Workman celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival in Los Angeles last night. "Uncle Billy," as everybody calls him and as he loves to be called, did not celebrate the occasion in solitary grandeur. At his table in Turn Verein hall 500 of his friends were assembled.

No man in California has so many nephews and nieces as "Uncle Billy" and no uncle ever loved his brother's offspring half so well. One phrase of his last night indicated the compass of his hospitality. "I only wish," he said, "that I could have entertained all of the 14,000 friends I had on the fifth of December." (Number of votes he received at the city election for Treasurer on that day.

The speeches were a mirror of the growth of Los Angeles from a straggling Mexican Pueblo to its present commanding position as the queen city of the southland. The gathering was one distinguished by a larger number of the men and women who builded the state than has been seen in this city for a long time.

It was indeed a notable gathering of those who have been instrumental in making Los Angeles.

Among the 'old boys,' as a jocular pioneer phrased it, were noticed: Commodore R. R. Haines, ex-Chief of Police Burns, Eugene Germain, H. Z. Osborne, Oscar Macy, Judge B. S. Eaton, William Dodson, John Young, Dr. Nadeau, ex-Mayor John Bryson, Victor Ponet, William Furgeson ex-United States Senator Cole, C. H. White, J. M. Guinn, H. D. Barrows, H. T. Hazard, M. F. Quinn, Louis Roeder, H. W. Hellman, E. H. Workman, J. G. Newell, J. W. Gillette, A. G. Mappa, Ben C. Truman, Ed. Nittenger, J. W. Davis, J. L. Slaughter, Will A. Harris, Jo'in Brown, Jr., of San Bernardino; Dr. H. S. Onne, A. J. King, Fred Alles and many others.

Among the pioneer women present were noticed Mrs. Laura Evertsens King, Mrs. Virginia Whisler Davis, Mrs. Mary Franklin, Mrs. J. G. Newell, Mrs. J. W. Gillette, Mrs. Dora Bilderbeck, Mrs. Annie Spence, Mrs. H. T. Hazard, Mrs. B. C. Truman, Mrs. William H. Workman, Mrs. B. S. Eaton, Mrs. A. G. Mappa, Mrs. Isabella Loosmore, Mrs. Cecelia Johansen, and many others.

Major Ben C. Truman, the veteran journalist and good fellow, acted as toastmaster. M. F. Quinn, president of the pioneer society, welcomed the guests on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Workman.

"Mr. Workman," said Mr. Quinn, "arrived here when but 16 years of age. Now he is 66 years old, a hale and hearty man and one of whom it may be said 'Hail fellow well met.' He has seen fit to call the pioneers of Los Angeles together that we may enjoy with him an old-time banquet. We thank him for this kind expression of good will, and we say 'Long may he live and prosper.' We will now eat and be merry."

The banquet was made up of Spanish dishes. The following menu was served :

Frijoles, Mejicanos
Pan Frances y Viena
Chili-Salza a la Capistrano
Francisco Wiggins' Camara de Comercio Ponche
Tamales de Sonora
Empanada de Jamon y queso
Apio Olivas Pepinas
Cafe

The following was the programme of literary exercises for the evening :

President, M. F. Quinn
Toastmaster, Major Ben C. Truman
Address of Welcome M. F. Quinn
Music by Ahrens' Orchestra
The Pioneers—How They Came to California :
(1). "The Plains Across," Henry T. Hazard
(2.) Via Panama J. M. Guinn
Music
(3.) Via the Santa Fe Trail .. Mrs. Virginia Whisler Davis
(4.) "Fifty Years in Los Angeles," W. H. Workman
(5.) Via Nicaragua.....Louis Roeder
Music
Five Minute Speeches Other Guests
"Auld Lang Syne," The Pioneers
"Home Sweet Home," Orchestra
Adios

Henry T. Hazard responded to the sentiment, "Crossing the Plains," and said he once belonged to an ancient debating society of which M. F. Quinn was president.

The guests cheered and Hazard stopped speaking and, looking very serious, remarked that when he was talking he didn't want members of the family to interfere. He said every old pioneer had two very clear recollections of the trip across—the ox team and the navy six shooter. These were the chief things upon which the argonauts depended.

J. M. Guinn told of the pioneer's trip by way of the isthmus of Panama. "It took nine months for the story of the gold discovery to reach the east and then the rush set in.

"There were three routes by which the pioneers could reach California. One by way of the isthmus, another by way of Cape

Horn and the third by crossing the plains. No matter which way a man came he always wished he had come by some other."

Mrs. Virginia Whisler Davis told an interesting story of experiences she encountered while coming across by the Santa Fe trail.

Louis Roeder told of crossing by way of Nicaragua, and a narrow escape his party had during the troublous days of Walker's filibustering in Central America.

Major Truman said that a great number of letters had been received by the president of the Pioneer Society. As a sample of these one from the veteran journalist, Col Joseph D. Lynch, was read. This letter sketched Mr. Workman's career gracefully and clearly. Commenting upon it, Major Truman said he had known Mr. Workman almost forty years, and was one of those who attended the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Workman thirty-seven years ago.

The host of the evening and his good wife were then introduced. They were given a great ovation. Responding to this reception, Mr. Workman said:

"I am most happy to greet my fellow pioneers here tonight in such large numbers. From the looks of this assemblage it shows that after all many of us are left. I have long had a desire to entertain my pioneer friends, and I only regret that available space prevented me from including many of those outside of the Pioneer Society.

"It would indeed be the joy of my life to entertain in this manner my 14,000 friends of December 5, 1904. I had intended celebrating the actual day that marked my fiftieth arrival in Los Angeles, but being absent at that time visiting the St. Louis exposition I could not do it.

"After January 1 I resolved to defer the pleasure no longer. and because of the uncertainty of the weather at this time of the year I have been obliged to give up my original plan of an outdoor barbecue.

"Fifty Years in Los Angeles" is the toast assigned to me. Fifty years, or half a century, is a long time, and yet I feel as though I would like to live fifty years more in this angelic city. Coming here a mere lad more than fifty years ago, when Los Angeles was a small town of 2500 inhabitants, today I am proud to say that I have seen it grow to a beautiful city of nearly 200,000 people.

"In 1880 Los Angeles contained but 11,000 people. This immense increase of population has occurred within the last twen-

ty-five years. Imagine, if you please, what this city will be fifty years hence, reaching from the mountains to the sea and spreading out east and west over a vast area and containing millions of people. This is no visionary or idle talk, but certainly within the possibilities, for there is but one Los Angeles and one Southern California.

"When I came here First street was I might say the southern boundary of the populated portion of the city; now the city stretches out in every direction, north, east, south and west. Then we had no railroads; today we are about to celebrate the opening of the third transcontinental railroad in Los Angeles. Our county is fairly gridironed with many excellent railway systems, electric as well as steam. There were no street cars, no telegraphic communication with the outside world, no banks, no conveniences of modern commercial life when I came here.

"The occasional steamer at San Pedro and a consequent occasional stage coach in Los Angeles were the only links with the rest of mankind. Those were not lonely days, however, for the early residents of Los Angeles were a hospitable and generous people. Many pleasant recollections must ever remain in my memory of those early Spanish and American families.

"I came here an ambitious lad trying to succeed in life; how well I have accomplished that I leave you to judge. Political happenings have likewise come, while there remains a certain similarity of procedure.

"Our worthy secretary, Prof. J. M. Guinn, and myself were candidates on opposing tickets for the legislature in this county in 1873, and we both got left. We canvassed the entire county, including what is now Orange county. We visited a place called Gospel Swamp, near Santa Ana. Gospel Swamp was inhabited by a very large number of good Methodists, and produced the tallest corn, the largest pumpkins and the finest babies in the world.

"Our opponents both being of that denomination got the best of us. They went to camp meetings and caressed and kissed the beautiful children. Our worthy secretary and myself being unsophisticated youths, did not follow that art in campaigning, and were both defeated.

"Times have changed, however, for Mr. Guinn and myself. Last December we ran on the same ticket and were both elected by handsome majorities, and we have never forsaken our principles either. I have always had a fondness for Professor Guinn, we have been good friends ever since our first political annihila-

tion.

"I would rather have the esteem and good will of my fellow citizens than all the wealth of the Rockefellers. I am proud to be a pioneer among you. I am proud of my fellow pioneers, to have their love and esteem; to have them as friends in adversity and prosperity. I am proud of my numerous nephews and nieces who stood in the front ranks to encourage and aid me. Their memory shall never fade from the memory of their 'Uncle Billy.' Long may you live and prosper. God bless you all."

A few five minute speeches followed Mr. Workman's address and then while the orchestra played "Auld Lang Syne" the guests bade their host and hostess good night.